

Message Text

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11

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 OMB-01 CIEP-03 FMC-04 DRC-01 /193 W

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P R 160710Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2649

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SW
SUBJECT: ITF CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

REF: STOCKHOLM 3536 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE 31ST WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION WAS HELD IN STOCKHOLM AUGUST 7-15. PRINCIPAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONGRESS CALL FOR A 48 HOUR BOYCOTT OF CHILEAN TRANSPORT, SENDING HIGH LEVEL ITF STUDY MISSIONS TO CHILE AND INDIA, AND EXPANDING ITF CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. AMERICAN LONG-SHOREMEN UNION LEADDG TEDDY GLEASON WAS ELECTED ITF VICE PRESIDENT. VETERAN TRANSPORT UNION LEADERS OCA OF THE PHILIPPINES AND MELGAREJO OF ARGENTINA WERE REMOVED FROM THE ITF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. A MOVE TO FORM AN AUTONOMOUS EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS DID NOT DEVELOP. END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATES TO THE ITF CONGRESS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO CARRY OUT A 48 HOUR BOYCOTT OF "ALL CHILEAN TRANSPORT." THE BOYCOTT WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 18-19. AFTER THE BOYCOTT, A SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL ITF MISSION WILL GO TO CHILE TO STUDY CONDITIONS RELATING TO TRADE UNION FREEDOM. THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT THE BOYCOTT WAS AIMED AT CHILEAN FLAG CARRIERS ONLY, BUT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY ITF SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS THAT THIS IS THE INTENT OF THE BOYCOTT ACTION. THE RESOLUTION ALSO AUTHORIZES THE SECRETARIAT TO TAKE ADDITIONAL BOYCOTT ACTION SUBSEQUENT TO THE FINDINGS OF THE ITF MISSION TO CHILE, BUT THIS IS CONSIDERED HIGHLY UNLIKELY. THE SCHEDULED BOYCOTT IS THEREFORE TOKEN IN NATURE AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT.

3. AN EIGHT MEMBER "OFFICIAL" DELEGATION OF CHILEAN TRANSPORT UNION LEADERS WAS PRESENT IN STOCKHOLM DURING THE CONGRESS, BUT WAS NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE. THE USDEL WAS PREPARED TO TAKE ISSUE WITH AN ITF
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION TO DENY CREDENTIALS TO THE CHILEANS, BUT DECIDED AGAINST SUCH ACTION WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL ADMIISION BY SOME OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATES THAT THEY WERE BEING FINANCED BY THE GOC AND WERE SENT TO STOCKHOLM BY THE GOC FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF OPPOSING ITF BOYCOTT ACTION. THE CHILEAN DELEGATION ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE CONGRESS DELEGATES TO VOTE AGAINST THE BOYCOTT RESOLUTION, BUT WERE THOROUGHLY DISCREDITED IN THE PROCESS.

4. THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS WAS PRESENTED BY THE BRITISH UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINMEN AND FIREMEN AUTHORIZING THE ITF GENERAL SECRETARY TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST LABOR CENTRALS IN ORDER TO DISCUSS "PURELY" INDUSTRIAL MATTERS. THE BRITISH HAD WATERED DOWN THE RESOLUTION IN AN EFFORT TO PLACATE THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, BUT THE USDEL CLAIMED THAT THE SEMANTIC CHANGES IN THE RESOLUTION DID NOT ALTER ITS BASIC INTENTION OF EXPANDING EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT UNION SECTOR. A STRONG USDEL EFFORT TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION FAILED AND THE RESOLUTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 2,093,000 TO 1,720,000. THE RESOLUTION HAD THE NEAR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN DELEGATES. WE WERE INFORMED BY A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THE CANADIAN AND ARGENTINE DELEGATIONS, MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF THEIR TRADITIONAL AMERICAN ITF ALLIES, BOTED IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION DURING THE SECRET BALLOT.

5. THE ITF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL ITF MISSION TO INDIA LATER THIS YEAR TO STUDY THE CONTINUING RAILWAY UNION CONTROVERSY THERE, STEMMING FROM THE INDIAN RAILWAY STRIKE LAST MAY. A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND CALLING FOR AN ITF MISSION TO INDIA WAS EARLIER TABLED BY THE CONGRESS AND THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DECISION TO SEND A STUDY MISSION.

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